allocate a number of communication lanes equal to the number of expansion sockets occupied by the expansion card to the expansion card.

16. The apparatus of claim **15**, wherein the plurality of expansion sockets include four expansion sockets and wherein the plurality of communication lanes include four communication lanes each configured to transmit traffic from one expansion socket of the four expansion sockets.

17. The apparatus of claim **15**, further comprising:

a chassis defining a motherboard slot, the motherboard being inserted within the motherboard slot; and p**1** a midplane including

a motherboard socket the motherboard being connected to the motherboard socket; and

the plurality of expansion sockets, the plurality of expansion sockets being electrically connected to the motherboard socket, each expansion socket of the plurality of sockets defining a plurality of connector pins arranged in one or more rows, each row of the one or more rows being coplanar and collinear with a corresponding row in the other sockets of the plurality of sockets.

18. The apparatus of claim **17**, wherein:

the one or more rows of connector pins of each socket of the plurality of sockets include first and second rows of connector pins; and

the first rows of connector pins of the plurality of expansion sockets are collinear and coplanar and the second rows of connector pins of the plurality of expansion sockets are collinear and coplanar.

19. The apparatus of claim **17**, wherein the motherboard socket faces an opposite direction from the plurality of expansion sockets.

20. The apparatus of claim **15**, wherein the plurality of expansion sockets are peripheral component interconnect express (PCIe) sockets.

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